[SALVADOR]

/53 cont./

000 175 178 *563 •645 646 situation by taking part in the life of the parties. This phenomenon is not entirely new, except in that it affects men of dark color and modest circumstances, for since the monarchical epoch numerous métis bearers of nobiliary titles granted by the emperor had represented Bahia in the imperial parliament and occupied posts in the national ministries. At least three ministers of foreign affairs, chosen among the statesmen of Bahia during the Empire and the Republic, were métis of great talent and of great social and political prestige. One of the most brilliant federal deputies of the republican regime established in 1889 was a dark mulatto, a health-service engineer, a historian and linguist of renown. Alluding to this intellectual, someone once said to a dark young man: "You will never be president of the Republic, but you can hope to acquire the fame of a Teodoro Sampaio." If one is to believe oral tradition, a member of the highest tribunal of justice of Bahia, a métis of very high social and intellectual rank, asserted in a speech that Bahia has always had the lead in this tradition "of liberty and equality among men who do not belong to the same race or at times to the same religion."

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*563 666 During the last election campaigns, the attitude of certain candidates toward colored persons was exploited in favor of some and to the detriment of others. Thus, rumors were circulated in 1945, according to which a candidate for the presidency of the Republic was supposed to harbor color prejudices and not allow the admission of Blacks and dark mulattoes into the military aviation services, which he then directed. It is maintained that these accusations contributed to reducing the number of votes in favor of this candidate in Bahia, in spite of the efforts that his party made to lessen the bad impression that this revelation had produced, even among the Whites. On the occasion of the 1950 campaign, the followers of one of the candidates for the office of governor of the State distributed a tract in which a newspaper favorable to another candidate was accused of having published an article whose author maintained that Negresses made themselves /54/ ridiculous by aping white women. In both cases it was an attempt to cause difficulties between candidates and voters. Moreover, a national association of colored men recommended to